N. 788
578 f. 44

Murther will out;

OR,

A True and Faithful Relation of an Horrible Murther commited Thirty Three Years ago, by an unnatural Mother, upon the body of her own Child about a Year Old, and was never discovered till this 24*th.* of *November*, 1675. by her own self, upon the fears of of an approaching Death: for which crime she was taken from her Bed, and carried in a Coach to Prison, where she remains very Penitent.

With an Account from her own Mouth how she was tempted to commit this Murther by the Devil: As also how she Finished it.

The truth of this you may be Satisfied with at Newgate.

Licensed, Nov. 30. Roger L'Estrange.

Printed for C. Passinger.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

Murther will out.

TO religious hearts there is nothing so distastful as Sin, nor any Sin so odious and execrable as Murther: for it being contrary to Nature and Grace; the very thought, much more the act thereof strikes horrour to their Hearts and Consciences; Wherefore if this foul and bloody sin be so displeasing to godly Men, how infinitely more detestable is it then to God himself; who made all Living creatures for to serve Man, and onely created Man and Wo-

man to ſerve himſelf; but as chollar proceeds from the paſsions of a man or Wom, ſo doth Murther from the Devil, for elſe we ſhould not ſo often and frequently ſee it perpetrated in moſt Countries of the World; A mournful but true example I here produce to your ſerious conſideration: in the pariſh of *Stephney*, lived a Widdow Woman, whoſe name I ſhall forbear to name, upon the account of a Son of hers living in *Redriffe* Pariſh: This Widdow being left with one ſmall child, about half a year old, ſeemed to be ſatisfied at the loſs of her husband, and well contented that ſhe had of his ſeed left her which ſhe hoped would prove a comfort to her after ſome trouble and coſt in bringing him up: which ſhe reſolves within her ſelf ſhould not be wanting from her, though ſhe worked her fingers to the bone; and in this mind ſhe continued for ſome time after the diſeeaſe of her dear husband; but the child being viſited by the hand of Almighty God with a lingering diſtemper, made it very froward both by night and day; and ſo continued for a long time pining away, and with its continual crying a nights made its Mothers life very uncomfortable, but this poor Woman bore up under it as well as could be expected for a weak Veſſel, but at laſt having laid out moſt of what ſhe had upon the Doctors for cordials for her child, ſhe began to murmur at the hard providence

dence as ſhe thought it, that had brought her into ſo ſad a condition, and this was the way Satan began to work upon this poor Woman, firſt to think hardly of God who thus afflicted her, telling her that ſhe got by her hearing of theſe good men as ſhe called them; and ſo by degrees thoſe ſubtile temptations of the Devil wrought ſo much upon the Woman; being oft alone, and being kept awake when that nature ſhould have been a refreſhing with ſleep, I ſay upon her pillow, ſhe ruminated upon what Satan had ſuggeſted to her, and giving way to this grand enemy of her ſalvation, ſhe ſoon was made a ſlave to him; he having got ſuch ſtrong hold and good footing never lets her alone but follows her from place to place, in her out-goings he is with her, and is not this ſad to be lead by the Devil, to have him for ones Companion, to walk with, to have this fiend to be by us, nay, in us, and a counſellour to us, as this poor miſerable ſoul had, who was ſo hurried about by him that ſhe could have no reſt till ſhe had done what he requited, which he told her would be for her eaſe and comfort: for now ſays he you are unhappy onely in this child of yours, which as long as it lives you will never enjoy a good day: and beſides it hinders your preferment; you are young and handſome, and might have a husband or two more if this childs head was but laid, but who do you think will come to

wooe you as long as this froward Child is with you: and therefore it is your beſt way to rid your hands of it: Theſe and the like thoughts the Devil continually filled her heart with: inſomuch that ſhe could have no quietneſs: at laſt ſhe begins a parley with the Devil: and, Oh ſad is it when we ſtand and parley with him in our own ſtrength: If ſhe had gone to Chriſt when ſhe was tempted: and cryed, O Lord Satan ſeeks to make a prey of my Soul, he tempts me to have hard thoughts of thee night and Day, and never gives me reſt, but would have me lay violent hands upon the fruit of my Womb, promiſing me happineſs in ſo doing, and pronouncing me miſerable if I do it not: Now Lord I come to thee for ſupporting grace, I am a weak creature and not able to reſiſt this adverſary of my ſoul, much leſs to overcome him, but I come to thee for thou art able to tread Satan under thy foot, do it Lord for thy names ſake; I ſay, if this poor tempted ſoul had upon the firſt temptation of Satan gone to Chriſt, and in the like manner laid open her caſe before him, doubtleſs ſhe had found him ready to help her and deliver her, but the not doing of this will of God be not infinite merciful in the blood of his Son will be her undoing. For Satan at laſt prevailed on her to lay violent hands upon the poor innocent Babe, in the manner and form as followeth: She reſolves that ſhe will not lead ſuch an uncomfortable life any longer

and

and therefore thinks of many wayes how she may send her child out of the World, so as not to be mistrusted that she killed it, whereupon she being to go to the Bake-house, takes her Child and lays it upon the Bed, and lays a pillow upon the mouth of it, and not questioning but that would dispatch it before she came again, but returning she found it alive: thinks of another way; for now the Devil who had brought it so far was resolved to help her to finish it, and accordingly another way is thought of: Viz. To put the Child under a Tub, so whelmed down the Tub close to the ground: This Stragedem proved effectual, she haveing put it under in an hours time takes it up to see if the Child was Dead, found it to be almost cold: whereupon to blind the Eyes of her Neighbours she runs out and cryed that her Child was Dead, and that it Dyed while she was gone to the Bake-House; the Neighbours all believe that it went away in a Fit: and all appeared to be well, that Woman soon afterwards Marryed and had a brave Boy, which is now grown to Mans estate, she hath lived above this thirty years with her husband that now is, and nothing known.

But mark how the Wise All-seeing and sin-revenging God brings this bloody crime to light. About a fort-night ago this Woman was visited with a Cold that was a common distemper, and

and with that a Feaver succeeded that appeared to be mortal, not onely to those that were about her, but her self apprehended the Danger; Upon which she was exceedingly Disquieted at the Remembrance of her former bloody crime, and could not rest till she had revealed it in manner as before, for which she was though in a very weak condition, carried in a Coach to Prison; she further told that she cannot nor shall not dye till she be hanged.

FINIS.